THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The foodgrains are allocated for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) at subsidized rates. Special allocation of foodgrains has been made free of cost only in rare cases involving natural calamities of severe magnitude.

(b) Statements indicating State-wise details of BPL population for the years 2001-2002 to 2004-05 is given in the Annexure [see Appendix 205, Annexure No. 5]. The statement showing State-wise Allocation of rice and wheat for Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna. Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) under Targetted Public Distribution System(TPDS) for the years 2001-2002, to 2004-05 are at Annexure [see Appendix 205, Annexure No. 5]. A statement giving details of foodgrains provided free of cost or at subsidized cost in addition to the allocation under TPDS during the aforesaid years is in Annexure [see Appendix 205, Annexure No. 5].

(c) The details of per quintal rates of foodgrains issued to the States during the period 2001-02 to 2004-05 under TPDS are given in the Annexure [see Appendix 205, Annexure No. 5].

Import and export of wheat

1306. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to import wheat, if so, the details thereof including the rates at which it is proposed to be imported;

(b) whether Government exported wheat a couple of months back, if so, the details thereof including the rates at which it was exported;

(c) the justification for the proposed import and the exports made; and

(d) whether Government have examined the possibility of the vested interests in the two deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There is no proposal to import wheat.

(b) and (c) Fresh allocation of foodgrains from the Central Pool, for commercial exports, has been stopped w.e.f. 11.8.2003. Only a quantity of 48,240 MTs of wheat has been exported by PEC Ltd., a Government of India Enterprise, out of which 46,224 MT was exported on behalf of World Food Programme (WFP), as part of humanitarian assistance. The exports were made at a rate of US $161.50 to US $ 168.00 Per MT(FOB).

(d) Safeguard mechanism is an integral part of any import or export policy to ward off vested interests and had been provided in the export scheme as well.

PDS allocations to Assam and West Bengal

†1307. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat provided by the Central Government to the State of Assam and West Bengal under PDS during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the wheat so provided was given to flour mills instead of being distributed among public;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that the benefit of subsidy supposed to be availed by public was availed by the mill owners; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps being taken by Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The quantum of wheat provided by the Central Government to the State of Assam and West Bengal under Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the years 2002-03 to 2004-05 is given in the statement (See below).

(b) to (d) While allocating foodgrains under TPDS, the Government of India does not earmark any quantity to be allotted to Roller Flour Mills.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.